

specific regulations. And in this case of No Child Left Behind, the U.S. Department of Education has developed a set of regulations based on an extreme interpretation of the legislation. There are many problems with the way No Child Left Behind regulations have evolved, but let us just take a look at two examples.

Acknowledging that quality teaching is critical to student performance, No Child Left Behind calls for teachers to meet competency and training standards for subjects they teach. This sounds reasonable, but any new Utah secondary teacher is required to have a bachelor's degree in the subject that he or she teaches. In rural schools, teachers often must teach multiple subjects.

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In the case of foreign language teachers, many Utah teachers are former LDS missionaries with foreign language fluency. Even if these teachers have college minors in the language, they would still not be considered qualified to teach the subject. Special education teachers also teach a variety of subjects every day. Is it reasonable to require multiple college degrees? Clearly, greater flexibility is necessary to pursue teacher quality.

Now, the No Child Left Behind Act also recognized that teacher turnover is a problem, and it directs States to ensure that poor and minority children are not taught by inexperienced teachers at higher rates than other students. Again, this sounds reasonable, but the implementation has proven problematic.

In Utah, anyone with less than 3 years of teaching is considered an inexperienced teacher. The Jordan School District has a low percentage of inexperienced teachers across the whole district, and Midvale Elementary School in that district, they just recently aggressively recruited a dozen new teachers with foreign language skills to meet students' needs. But because they are all new teachers, it drives the school's percentage of inexperienced teachers above the district average, so the school is a failure under this requirement. Again, this just does not make sense.

As a Congressman, I often hear about the unintended consequences of legislation. As someone who supported the No Child Left Behind Act, I am gravely concerned that a lack of funding and an inappropriate set of regulations have brought on many unintended consequences that will harm Utah's schools.

The gap between legislative intent and real world implementation must be addressed. That is why I have cosponsored legislation to suspend No Child Left Behind requirements until Congress fulfills its funding commitments.

I have seen the great work that goes on every day in our schools. Our teachers, our principals, the PTA parents, teacher aides and school district staff work hard for our kids. None of them

would ever want to leave any child behind. They know that the best investment we can make is the investment in our children's education. Congress should do everything we can to help them succeed.

#### THE COST OF IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCOTTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 140 years or so ago, former President John Quincy Adams came to the House floor and read letters from his constituents about slavery and about the abolitionists because the House actually passed a rule in 1838 saying that Congress could not debate the issue of slavery on the House floor, believe it or not.

Today, we have not really been free; we have not had committee hearings; we have not had floor debate on a lot of the questions about what is happening in Iraq, getting answers from the President and from the administration about the reconstruction, the cost, how the money is being spent; all of that, and I have gotten letters from hundreds of constituents asking for answers to those questions.

But what we have seen, Mr. Speaker, is information from the Bush administration that obfuscates, that deceives, that simply does not tell us.

Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz recently said, "No one that I know of would ever say that this war is cheap."

Well, that is not what the President's people were telling us before the invasion. Budget Director Mitch Daniels said Iraq, back then, before the attack, said Iraq would be "an affordable endeavor that will not require sustained aid."

Now, Jane from Sheffield Lake, Ohio, wrote to me, "We cannot let this enormous deception from the Bush administration continue."

Back several months ago, White House economist Glen Hubbard said the costs of any intervention would be very small.

Edward from Akron in my district wrote, "I believe we were duped by this administration through misleading statements and outright lies."

Larry Lindsey, the President's Chief Economic Adviser, estimated the war in Iraq would cost \$100 billion to \$200 billion, the war and the aftermath and the reconstruction. He was shunned by the administration after saying that. He was later fired because of that.

From Akron Ohio, Susan writes, "Please represent us in Summit County and get to the bottom of these untruths and these lies."

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the President's proposal to spend \$87 billion. That is just this year. That is in addition to the \$65 billion check that Congress and the American people have already written to the President for the

war in Iraq. This \$87 billion details how the President's request allocates \$157 per Iraqi, U.S. taxpayers pay \$157 per Iraqi, for sewage improvements, but in the President's budget there is only \$14 per American for sewage improvement in this country.

The administration, according to the President's request for this \$87 billion, is devoting \$38 per Iraqi for hospitals, but in this country, only \$3.30 per American citizen for hospitals.

The President is seeking almost \$6 billion to rebuild and expand Iraq's electricity generation and distribution system, as millions of Americans are regaining power lost from Hurricane Isabel and as Congress continues, frankly, not very well in this Congress, to deal with the fallout from the August blackout.

The President requests from the \$87 billion, 350 times more money for Iraqis individually; \$255 per Iraqi for electrical power rehabilitation, 71 cents per American for electrical power rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans need some answers. How are we going to spend this money? Where has the \$1 billion a week gone now? We need accountability. We need, most importantly, for the President to assure us that our troops will be well-supplied, and that our troops will be safer than they have in the past.

In fact, I received a call just last night from a young man whom I know who was injured in Iraq from my district. He spent 70 days in the hospital. Because of this administration's policy, he owes \$550 back to Bethesda Hospital, back to the government, because the government has charged him, believe it or not, \$8.10 for every day's meal he has eaten in that hospital as an injured soldier in the United States of America, injured in the battlefield in Iraq. Yet, now the administration simply is not telling us how we are going to spend that money, not making the private contractors, many of them friends of the President who are getting literally hundreds of millions of dollars, not disclosing where that money is going, how they are spending it.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth from Akron writes, "The Bush administration's blatant disregard for the ability of the American people to sort through, to discuss and to reach reasonable conclusions on important issues is disturbing. What else aren't they telling us? What other lies are they trying to foist on us? Whether one supported the war or not, the question of the obvious and overwhelming deceptions the administration seems to regard as normal is disturbing."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)